

## Abstract of the Disclosure

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3       The invention provides a system for entry and modification of multimedia  
4       elements for communication and presentation. Abbreviations, each comprising a se-  
5       quence of one or more keystrokes or mouse actions are associated with individual multi-  
6       media elements, so that a human operator can enter those multimedia elements using a  
7       keyboard or mouse. Each multimedia element has properties, which can be modified  
8       once the multimedia element has been entered. The set of individual multimedia ele-  
9       ments is collected into an ensemble, which can itself have properties that can be modified.  
10      One such property of the ensemble is a “theme,” which applies to a plurality of multi-  
11      media elements in the ensemble and presents a variant of each multimedia element consistent  
12      with the theme. The multimedia editor is included with a communication system for  
13      sending and receiving electronic chat and electronic mail messages in real time, and for  
14      presenting web documents in a compressed form. When a sender enters an abbreviation,  
15      an associated multimedia element is transmitted as an electronic chat message or con-  
16      structed for transmission as an electronic mail message; the choice of associated multi-  
17      media element can be responsive to a receiver’s capability, and can be selected at the re-  
18      ceiver dynamically in response to user actions. The sender can also transmit a theme;  
19      multimedia objects are presented to the recipient using the sender’s theme, or can be over-  
20      ridden to use a different theme. If the multimedia objects associated with the abbrevia-  
21      tions are available at the recipient or at a common server, electronic chat messages, elec-

- 1 tronic mail messages, and web documents can be compressed and transmitted using only
- 2 the abbreviations.